

State of Connecticut

GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Medical Assistance Program Oversight Council

Legislative Office Building, Room 3000, Hartford, CT 06106

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www.cga.ct.gov/med/

Chairs: Sen. Terry Gerratana and Rep. Catherine Abercrombie

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, June 10, 2016

9:30 AM in Room 1E of the LOB

Attendance is on Record with the Council.

I. The meeting was called to order at by the chair, Rep. Abercrombie, at 9:42AM.

Introductions were made by those in attendance.

II. Kate McEvoy began by announcing that on Monday the Department issued an RFP for the Medicaid Quality Improvement and Shared Savings Program (MQISSP). She thanked the Care Management Committee for all of their work and input.

Ellen thanked DSS for the unique experience and allowing extensive input from the Care Management Committee. Rep. Abercrombie thanked everyone for their efforts. Kate referenced the “special for service partners” area of the DSS website.

Kate began the overview of the Innovation Accelerator Program on Medicaid-Housing Partnership (See Attachment).

https://www.cga.ct.gov/med/council/2016/0610/20160610ATTACH_Innovation%20Accelerator%20Program%20on%20Medicaid-Housing%20Partnerships%20Presentaion.pdf

Colleen Harrington discussed the supported housing program through DMHAS. She talked about the infrastructure for a Medicaid billing program and the lift Housing providers would be receiving.

Rep. Abercrombie thanked Kate and asked that anyone interested on sitting on the steering committee send a request to Rich, the council’s clerk.

Rep. Conroy asked how DSS decides which towns receive people being placed. Kate discussed the person centeredness and working with the person through transition supports to help coordinate where they will go.

Rev. Bonita Grubbs applauded the new initiative and asked if this was targeted to single individuals and how the family is tackled. Kate stated that CMS is focused on individuals with disabilities who can be a part of families. Most of the literature and policy is on the person but there is a lot of work to be done with families not just individuals.

Tracy Wodatch asked if she knew what the plan was with the work the commission on aging did on livable communities. She provided context on the medication administration rate reduction that she would be discussing later in relation to the housing initiatives. Kate believes the work on livable communities will continue but that's something to look into. She discussed Tracy's comments on strategies from home health supports to self-management.

Ellen Andrews expressed how exciting and important this project is in finding smart and safe ways to save money. She hopes to look into the data match and believes the impact on communities will be benefited in the addition to the individual and feels local officials should be included. Kate reinforced the data matching and believes the local governances should be included. She talked about what Hawaii recently did towards homelessness and how CT's approach was much different.

Dr. Alex Geertsma talked about his perspective on the medical placement of foster children and how it directly relates to the family and possibly homelessness. He finds there is great potential and hopes there is persistence because there are going to be many issues in stability that goes through generations.

Matthew Barret acknowledged the importance of the initiative and talked about CT's history of programs to prevent and end homelessness. He offered his willingness to represent the Council.

Katherine Yacavone talked about persons who are already represented in the project. Kate talked about the work with DOH and its partners to work with the various groups that deal with housing.

Stephen Frayne talked about the issues that occur now with persons who are homeless and need care and asked that short term needs be acknowledged when looking at these long term housing goals. Kate agreed with the barrier issues and talked about a project currently going on in New Haven and looking at that to see how this could work in other areas.

Sheldon Toubman discussed the flexibility in MFP that has helped many individuals. Kate talked about the many variables and person-centeredness.

Catherine Risigo-Wickline discussed Dr. Geertsma's comments and the need to help children.

III. Dr. Robert Zavoski provided an update on HUSKY Plus Program (See Attachment). https://www.cga.ct.gov/med/council/2016/0610/20160610ATTACH_HUSKY%20Plus%20Presentation.pdf

Mary Alice asked what the source of referrals is for the children. Dr. Zavoski responded that it varies greatly. Many referrals come from the two children's Hospitals along with the ASO's. Many pediatricians contact the ASO's and sometimes parents make the referrals. Mary Alice asked if they are referred before running out of resources in HUSKY B. Dr. Zavoski said that most referrals come before hand and they try to make the transition as seamless as possible.

Stan Soby asked about the co-pays applying to non-preventative care and what would be covered. DSS uses the same definition as under the ACA. Stan asked if there is any other service limitation in HUSKY Plus. Dr. Zavoski believes the only thing that is not covered is skilled nursing services.

Mary Alice commented on the low enrollment in HUSKY Plus which she finds concerning. She asked Dr. Zavoski if he believes this is because of the benefits under HUSKY B being sufficient. He believes the benefit package provides for more than others do.

Dr. Geertsma asked about the numbers with Autism Services and what the state of the program is. Dr. Zavoski commented on HUSKY B services which are not through Medicaid. Bill Halsey stated that DSS would be happy to give a presentation on Autism Services in the future and gave a brief update of what is happening with the shift of services to DSS. Dr. Geertsma talked about general impressions with Autistic children and the issues with behavioral health. Dr. Zavoski agreed and talked about the struggle with putting together the Autism network. Kate added that there is a very careful process and they are looking at the provider capacity and difficulties with this nationally. Dr. Geertsma talked about the issue with quality of services vs. quantity. Kate talked about the provider bulletins that are issued with new policies, specifically with Autism, and the amount of information on the parameters of coverage. Rep. Abercrombie referenced the moving of Autism services from DDS to DSS. She hopes that by doing this we will be able to provide better services, more services and get school districts more involved.

Rep. Abercrombie talked about having a forum on Autism Services. Kathy Risigo-Wickline discussed therapy services and the issues she faces with reimbursement for speech language therapists. Bill Halsey talked about the outreach that is done and DSS's willingness to listen to suggestions. Sheldon Toubman stated that he would like to see a presentation on the services and talked about the amount of providers and the problem with access if payments are too low. Bill Halsey stated that when fee schedules are updated the rates are aligned with up-to-date statistics from the Department of Labor and they increase this sometimes based on access. They are hearing that more providers are enrolling and they will continue to look at that.

Mary Alice asked if a child is automatically referred into HUSKY Plus if they are in enrolled in HUSKY B which is not Medicaid. Rep. Abercrombie believes that is something that is important to look at. She referenced a document from CT Voices for Children and thanked Mary Alice Lee for the work that she and the organization does.

IV. Subcommittee Report (See Attachment).

https://www.cga.ct.gov/med/council/2016/0610/20160610ATTACH_May-June%20Subcommittee%20Repot.pdf

Rep. Conroy stated her excitement to be a part of restarting the Quality Improvement subcommittee. Rep. Abercrombie discussed the work that is being done towards subcommittees.

Amy Gagliardi stated that the Women's Health committee would be meeting on Monday and continuing the discussion on opioid abuse in pregnant women.

Dr. Geertsma stated his hope to speak at the American Academy's upcoming meeting and share his concern that it has been in a position of responding to legislation put forward and believes the Academy needs to look where CT stands towards national issues and take a proactive approach.

Ellen Andrews stated that the Complex Care Committee would be meeting on the 24th and discussed what would be on the agenda.

Rep. Abercrombie referenced the forum on June 16th on the proposed 15 percent reduction in Medication Administration rates. She asked if in last year's budget there was any language about these sorts of cuts being run through the committees of cognizance. Kate discussed the letter that was sent from the Department to the Appropriations and Human Services leadership. She also went through the issue brief on Medication administration and referenced the mastersheet of all home health providers (See Attachments).

https://www.cga.ct.gov/med/council/2016/0610/20160610ATTACH_Medication%20Administration%20cover%20letter.pdf

https://www.cga.ct.gov/med/council/2016/0610/20160610ATTACH_%20Issue%20Brief%20on%20Medication%20Administration.pdf

https://www.cga.ct.gov/med/council/2016/0610/20160610ATTACH_Home%20Health%20Mastersheet%20CY%202015.pdf

Rep. Abercrombie shared her concerns and the potential for ramifications by implementing these cuts. Tracy Wodatch provided background and context on medication administration in homes. She referenced and discussed several Home Health documents that were distributed (See Attachments).

https://www.cga.ct.gov/med/council/2016/0610/20160610ATTACH_INVITATION%20June%2016%20LOB%20Public%20Forum%20Behavioral%20Health%20Community%20Based%20Challenges.pdf

https://www.cga.ct.gov/med/council/2016/0610/20160610ATTACH_Methods%20for%20Assuring%20Access%20to%20Covered%20Medicaid%20Services.pdf

Tracy discussed many of the cost savings initiatives that were enacted. She reiterated the Home Health forum that would be taking place and who was invited. She shared the many concerns Home Health has with the 15 percent cut and potential setbacks. There is a 30 day period to send in comments on the State Plan Amendment. Ann Foley thanked Tracy and the Association for their work and partnering with OPM to try and address the situation. She discussed the context of nursing home rebalancing and what has been tried to be accomplished over the past 5 years. Ann talked about the budget issues and OPM does not feel they can carry the savings into 2017. Kate recognized the home health partners in rebalancing and discussed the initial premise of the issues for community services. She talked about delegation and med boxes and the need to make up means in the budget because of the low returns from these. Kate asked for help in the integration of persons into the community through culture and expectations.

Colleen Harrington agreed with Tracy that they are not alone. She talked about the work of DMHAS through Beacon with local mental health authorities (LMHA) on needing to move things forward through lower cost alternatives. Tracy added that she agreed with the comments of Colleen and Kate and the need to work with LMHAs. Rep. Abercrombie encouraged people to attend the forum and believes this is a continuing discussion.

Sheldon Toubman referenced the Husky A Parents who lost their Medicaid coverage and would be losing their TMA at the end of July. The advocates have put together a document outlining how they feel to appropriately help the parents through their coverage transition. Katherine Yacavonne added that FQHC's have outreach and enrollment specialists to help people through the transition.

V. Rep. Abercrombie announced the next meeting date and asked for thoughts on what should be on the agenda. DSS will present on Autism Spectrum Disorder. Alex Geertsma expressed that he worried that an important topic should be deferred until a meeting not during the summer. Rep. Abercrombie said that she feels that it is important to start the conversation during the July meeting and there can be follow-up at the September meeting. She also stated that the Council should receive a HUSKY A update. Mary Alice asked that the Dental cuts and potential impacts be on the agenda for July. Tracy asked for a follow-up on the medication administration rate cut.

Dr. Geertsma asked if all MAPOC meetings are on CT-N. The clerk explained that generally the Council meetings are on CT-N outside of session. The links to the CT-N recordings are posted on the Council's webpage.

Rep. Abercrombie thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:22PM.

The next meeting will be held on Friday, July 8, 2016 at 9:30 AM

Richard Eighme
Council Clerk